

June 7, 2023

Tri-Cities CARES
1360 N Louisiana St #A-175
Kennewick, WA 99336

Dear Board:

On behalf of the over 1200 members of the TriCity Association of Realtors, I'm writing to express our support of Tri-Cities CARES active role in opposing the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project.

Our organization advocates for pro-housing legislation in the TriCities area. In addition to housing issues, we are also champions of property rights for all homeowners.

This is a controversial project, with much opposition including Benton PUD, various environmental groups, and the Yakima Nation. We believe it is our duty to stand alongside these numerous groups as a dissenting voice to this wholly disadvantageous proposal. The harm to the property rights, viewsheds, and future planning for local housing are far too detrimental to our profession and those we advocate for. Although there are countless reasons to not move forward with this project, these 4 points highlight the most glaring opposition:

1. In 2019, Hydro power created over 30,500 megawatts of power, and wind pales in comparison.
2. Regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, wind poses a threat to native birds in our region.
3. Agriculturally, wind can create direct effects on local temperatures that can detrimentally affect our regions output of food and other necessary resources.
4. An alternate location where the Windmills could be housed is at the Hanford Site. The location has become an Epicenter for Energy Creation; Nuclear, Small modular Reactors, Solar, etc.

We will firmly support Benton County and all other local jurisdictions and special interest groups in strict opposition to Scout Clean Energy's intent to compromise and exploit our homes and local resources.

We will make ourselves and our resources available in any way that we might help inform, encourage, and engage the community and our members to help bring this project to a halt.

We thank each of you for your time and effort combating this egregious attack on our local homes.

Respectfully,

TRICITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Lola Franklin, CAE
Chief Executive Officer